

REMARKS

Claims 26-42, 52 and 53 are pending. Claims 43-51 are canceled.

Restriction has been required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between:

Group	Claims	Subject Matter	Class/Subclass
I	43-51	Reaction assembly	422/131
IIA	26-42	Method of chemical synthesis	536/25.3
IIB	52 and 53	Method of chemical synthesis including control	700/268

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect to prosecute the claims designated as Group IIA (claims 26-42). This election is taken with traverse as concerns the claims designated Group IIB (claims 52 and 53).

According to MPEP § 803, there are two criteria for a proper requirement for restriction between patentably distinct inventions:

- (A) The inventions must be independent (see MPEP § 802.01, § 806.04, § 808.01) or distinct as claimed (see MPEP § 806.05 to § 806.05(i)); and
- (B) There must be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is required (see MPEP § 803.02, § 806.04(a) to § 806.04(i), § 808.01(a), and § 808.02).

In this regard, the claims of Group IIA and IIB both relate to a chemical synthesis method involving first and second reaction sites on a reaction support. In Group IIA claims, reagents are jetted to the reaction sites. In Group IIB claims, reagents are transported using a control means. Applicants believe that an examination of either set of claims will reveal background art relevant to the other set of claims. As such, examination of the claims of Groups IIA and IIB should not cause an undue burden on the Examiner. Applicants ask for reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement as applied to the claims designated Groups IIA and IIB.

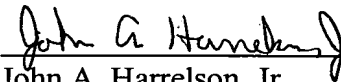
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PATENT

The foregoing is believed to constitute a complete and full response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, an early and favorable reconsideration of the rejections and an allowance of all of pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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